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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q66634

Nobuo TAKAHASHI

Appln. No.: 09/977,387

Group Art Unit: 2161

Confirmation No.: 3087

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: October 16, 2001

For: METHOD, SYSTEM AND PROGRAM FOR DETERMINING SELLING PRICE, AND
COMPUTER-READABLE STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING THE PROGRAM

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GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

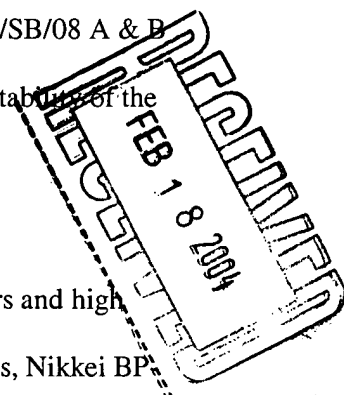
Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. T. Otake, "(New Service) Joint purchasing site-Strength in attracting customers and high volume sales - Stir up the desire to buy with a sense of play", Nikkei Net Business, Nikkei BP Sha, 15 September 2000, No. 63, pp. 110-113.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-057214, published February 25, 2000 with English Abstract.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits



Nobuo TAKAHASHI
09/977,387
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated December 2, 2003, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

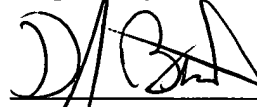
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



Howard L. Bernstein
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Date: February 10, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/977,387
Confirmation Number	3087
Filing Date	October 16, 2001
First Named Inventor	Nobuo TAKAHASHI
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	Q66634

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	2000-057214	A	02/25/2000	Hitachi Ltd.	English Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		T. Otake, "(New Service) Joint purchasing site-Strength in attracting customers and high volume sales - Stir up the desire to buy with a sense of play", Nikkei Net Business, Nikkei BP-Sha, 15 September 2000, No. 63, pp. 110-113.	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

- Claims: 1-21
- Cited Literature: 1 and 2
- Remarks:

Furthermore, Cited Literature 2 discloses an invention whereby it is possible to receive requests for product orders from customers connected on-line, and display the product price and terms of payment when the received request is responded to.

Moreover, language suggesting joint purchasing can be found in Cited Literature 2 ((0076)).

List of Cited Literature

- ### Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results

- This Record of Prior Art Literature Search Results does not constitute a reason for rejection.